



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Official Minutes)

Regular Meeting

September 15, 2026

Called for 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, for the purpose of discussing any and all business that may properly come before the Committee.

Members Present: Vice Chair Dube, Member Harding, Member Hudson, Member Jaikumar, Mayor Siddiqui, Member de Paula Santos, Chair Weinstein

Others Present: Dr. Heather Francis, Chief Academic Officer; Student Member Imogene Goode; David Murphy, Superintendent of Schools; Student Member Maia Shen; Damon Smith, Chief Operating Officer; Carolyn Weisman, Legal Counsel

Chair Weinstein in the Chair.

A quorum of the School Committee being present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the call of the meeting.

The meeting proceeded to the first order of business with a roll call of members present: Vice Chair Dube, **ABSENT**; Member Harding, **ABSENT**; Member Hudson, **ABSENT**; Member Jaikumar, **PRESENT**; Mayor Siddiqui, **PRESENT**; Member de Paula Santos, **PRESENT**; Chair Weinstein, **PRESENT**

Member Harding arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Vice Chair Dube joined by Zoom at 6:45 p.m. and arrived in-person at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Member Hudson arrived at 6:55 p.m.

1. Public Comment

The following individuals were heard:

- Chris Montero, Warren Road, Framingham **#26-212, #26-213, #26-214**, highlighted the importance of adequate recess time and resources, particularly during the winter months and requested opportunities for educators, families, and students to provide feedback on the Superintendent's performance. Supported reviewing RSTA's successes and opportunities for expansion while emphasizing that individual educator evaluations should remain separate from the review.
- Denise Haynes, Putnam Ave, **#26-214**, highlighted her son's positive experience in RSTA's Early Education and Care program. She urged an independent review that includes instructors, students, and families and examines how all RSTA programs prepare students for employment or higher education.
- Tina Lieu, Huron Ave, **#26-214**, emphasized RSTA's role in providing practical skills and postsecondary pathways and urged an independent review that examines program awareness, exploratory access, multilingual information, staffing, resources, community partnerships, and long-term student outcomes.
- Duncan MacLaury, Meacham Road, **#26-213, #26-214**, supported an evidence-based Superintendent evaluation process that includes feedback from educators, caregivers, and students and raised concerns that portions of the RSTA review could conflict with collective bargaining requirements and also advocated for greater educator representation in School Committee discussions.
- Alisa Khan, Third Street, **Superintendent's Update, Transportation** described how persistent school bus delays cause students to miss instructional and social time while creating anxiety for students and families,

with disproportionate effects on those who rely on school transportation and breakfast and thanked staff for recent improvements and urged the district to develop a proactive transportation plan before each school year to prevent recurring delays and excessive tardiness.

- Sarah Flynn, Larch Road, **Superintendent's Update, Transportation** described transportation challenges involving two children attending Morse School, including a son with autism who receives door-to-door transportation through his IEP and a four-year-old daughter assigned to a separate bus stop. She requested that CPS consider hardship exceptions allowing siblings to share an IEP bus when space is available, providing a safer and more manageable arrangement for single-caregiver households.
- Niya Quadir, Third Street, **Superintendent's Update, Transportation**, a student who rides the Brown Hornet bus, described how ongoing delays caused her to miss advisory, academic instruction, breakfast, testing information, and time with friends, while sometimes being incorrectly marked absent. She noted recent improvements but emphasized that unreliable transportation continues to affect many students, particularly those whose families cannot drive them to school.
- Clara Hendricks, Rice Circle, **Superintendent's Update, Transportation**, described unsafe and unreliable school transportation, including skipped stops, excessive delays, lengthy rides, poor communication, insufficient staff training, and serious impacts on students' safety, learning, and emotional well-being and urged CPSD to conduct a complete overhaul of its transportation system and Eastern Bus contract to ensure safe, efficient, and equitable service for all families.

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Jaikumar, public comment was closed on a voice vote.,

2. Student School Committee Report:

Student Members Maia Shen and Imogene Goode gave the following update:

- Students reported positive feedback on the recent add/drop period, with many students securing their preferred classes and receiving helpful support from guidance counselors.
- Curriculum Night will be held on September 24, providing families an opportunity to meet teachers and learn about students' courses and the semester ahead.
- Club Week generated strong participation and school spirit, with upperclassmen promoting a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, including robotics, Black Student Union, and others.
- Senior Sunrise is scheduled for Friday, with Homecoming and junior and senior prom fundraisers also planned.
- The boys cross-country team is having a strong season and was recently featured in *The Boston Globe*.
- Both the boys and girls varsity crew teams are registered to compete in the Head of the Charles.
- The CRLS football team won its first home game and will play Somerville High School at Fenway Park on November 24.

3. Presentation of the Records for Approval: None

4. Reconsiderations: None

5. Unfinished Business/Calendar:

6. Awaiting Reports: None

7a. Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent will present to the school committee on various matters pertaining to the Cambridge Public Schools, including a brief recap of previous matters shared with the school committee and/or additional items pending for future consideration. The Superintendent will also share updates related to the opening of the 2026 - 2027 school year including efforts to improve transportation timeliness and other operational matters.

Superintendent Murphy gave the following update which can be found on this [website](#).

- Superintendent Murphy opened with a district highlight, noting that CRLS's dropout rate has been reduced by approximately half since 2017.
- He provided updates on several reports and initiatives previously requested by the School Committee:
 - 360 Evaluations: A specific section was incorporated into the May 2026 Culture Survey to gather feedback on building administrators. The feedback is available to school leaders, supervisors, and the Superintendent as one component of the evaluation process.
 - The administration is reviewing DESE guidance as it considers a more comprehensive 360 evaluation model. The Superintendent emphasized the value of gathering broad perspectives while maintaining employee evaluation confidentiality.
 - School Choice/Controlled Choice: The May 28 written report and June 2 presentation served as the administration's response to the Committee's request for analysis. The Superintendent noted that controlled choice has largely met its socioeconomic-balancing objectives, while some outlier schools continue to require adjustments.
 - School Councils: The School Council Working Group, chaired by Baldwin Interim Principal Robin Harris with support from Executive Director Melissa Bolden, has met three times. Another meeting is scheduled for October 13, with an interim update expected afterward.
 - Screen Time/Artificial Intelligence: Updated screen-time guidance has been issued. AI guidance will be shared with staff during October professional development to gather educator feedback, followed by opportunities for public and Committee discussion.
 - Strategic Planning: The process remains underway, with additional opportunities planned for public input. The Superintendent expects to brief the Committee or a subcommittee in the near future on developing priorities and objectives.
 - Snow Day Protocols: An update will be forthcoming, although the Superintendent does not anticipate significant changes for the 2026–27 school year.

Transportation Update: The Superintendent discussed the connection between controlled choice and transportation, noting that Cambridge's citywide school assignment structure creates a particularly complex transportation system. He stated that any student arriving late to school because of district transportation is unacceptable and emphasized the administration's commitment to continued improvement, while noting that the system is operationally complex and expensive and that adding additional buses is not necessarily the primary solution. General education transportation has improved significantly, with remaining problems concentrated among a relatively small number of buses and geographic areas, where traffic, construction, and other infrastructure changes continue to affect routes. Specialized transportation through NRT Beacon continues to present greater challenges, and the administration is focusing significant attention on those routes, including potential adjustments to routes and pickup times to improve later-tier arrivals. Families experiencing individual transportation problems were encouraged to contact their child's principal rather than the Transportation Office so that principals can elevate concerns to the appropriate staff, while the administration separately tracks systemic route and arrival-time issues. The district is tracking the arrival time of every vehicle each day, and the Superintendent reiterated that individualized specialized transportation concerns often require case-by-case solutions. **Chair Weinstein** requested additional communication to families regarding transportation procedures, including what happens when younger students cannot be dropped off because an adult is not present to receive them. **Member Harding** stressed the importance of clear communication with families, continued evaluation of vendor performance and routes, and a future Committee check-in after transportation operations have had additional time to stabilize.

7b. Presentation

The Superintendent will advise the committee on the ongoing process of determining the future of the school building located at 158 Spring Street, formerly the home of the Kennedy Longfellow School. The presentation will include the identification of multiple scenarios that will be shared with the community at-large in the coming weeks to provide opportunities for input and engagement before a potential recommendation is made to the committee in October.

Superintendent Murphy shared the following presentation which can be found on this [website](#).

The Superintendent presented an update on the future use of 158 Spring Street. He noted that the process began with the December 2024 decision to close Kennedy-Longfellow and has included community engagement since spring 2025. Decisions regarding the property should consider districtwide and long-term implications, fiscal stewardship, equity, facility upgrades, controlled choice, grade configuration, and the developing strategic plan, with particular attention to students with the greatest needs.

- Three options were presented for consideration:
 - Relocate and expand Amigos School from Upton Street to 158 Spring Street. The Superintendent described Amigos as a high-performing dual-language immersion school currently constrained by its building. Relocation could increase access to the program, provide significantly more space and amenities, and create opportunities for specialized programming and services for high-needs students.
 - Create an early childhood hub by concentrating a larger portion of CPS preschool programming at Spring Street. Potential benefits include greater collaboration among early childhood educators, more efficient delivery of specialized services, stronger family/community connections, and freeing space in elementary schools for other programming. The Superintendent acknowledged drawbacks, including Spring Street's location, the inability to accommodate all preschool students there, potential underutilization of the building, and additional renovation costs to make the facility appropriate for three- and four-year-olds.
 - Consolidate upper schools into fewer, larger school communities. The Superintendent said this could allow CPS to offer broader programming and address increasingly fragile feeder patterns and enrollment structures. He described this as the most complex and disruptive option and stressed that it would require a broader conversation about grade configuration and facilities.
- Regarding Amigos, the Superintendent said Spring Street currently has capacity for approximately 680 students, compared with roughly 450 students currently at Amigos. A future major reconstruction could potentially increase Spring Street's capacity, although that would be a much longer-term project. Amigos could grow gradually by adding strands over time or more quickly by incorporating compatible existing programming.
- The Superintendent said the current renovations at Spring Street include attention to HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems. While the building remains functional, substantial new construction is not currently contemplated. More detailed information regarding the renovations is expected this fall. The reopening could occur in fall 2027 or fall 2028.

Member Hudson expressed concern about the timing of the discussion in relation to the upcoming preschool lottery and stressed the importance of ensuring families have clear information before making enrollment decisions. **Member Harding** emphasized the importance of considering the district's facilities and programs as an interconnected system rather than making decisions in isolation. He expressed interest in expanding access to Amigos' dual-language program while raising concerns about upper-school consolidation without a fuller review of the Innovation Agenda. He stressed the need for extensive community communication and later requested financial modeling and projected costs for each scenario, including both immediate and longer-term implications. **Vice Chair Dube** requested a clearer picture of the potential downstream effects of each scenario. **Member de Paula Santos** supported the districtwide approach and asked what would happen to Upton Street if Amigos moved. She also requested more detail about how Spring Street could support special education and other high-needs programming. **Member Jaikumar** asked whether a fall 2028 opening would allow additional improvements beyond those possible by fall 2027 and whether the field renovation could affect the opening timeline. The Superintendent said waiting an additional year would generally not change the major capital improvements possible, and he did not expect the field project to affect the school's reopening. Member Jaikumar also asked whether using Spring Street for Amigos or early childhood programming would limit the district's future ability to restructure upper schools. The Superintendent acknowledged that it would remove Spring Street as an option for that purpose and emphasized that the current upper-school structure remains an issue the district will eventually need to address. **Mayor Siddiqui** stressed that community engagement should extend beyond formal forums and intentionally seek input from families and students who have historically been less well served by the district. The Superintendent said the discussion demonstrated sufficient Committee direction for the administration to accelerate its analysis, describing the work as a first priority. Community

engagement sessions are scheduled for September 29, September 30, and October 1, followed by further Committee discussion in October. A special School Committee meeting may also be scheduled to provide sufficient time for an in-depth discussion without overloading regular meeting agendas.

7c. CPS District Plan: None

7d. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Member Hudson, seconded by Mayor Siddiqui **#26-199, #26-200, #26-201, #26-203, #26-204, #26-206, #26-207, #26-208, #26-209, and #26-210** were adopted on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-199 Recommendation: Day & Residential Program Services not Available from the Cambridge School Department be adopted as follows: That the School Committee award contracts to the institutions on attached list in amounts not to exceed the shown rates, having been approved by the Operational Services Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funds to be provided from the general fund and/or grant fund budget.

	#	Amount
Day Program Tuition Contracts:	1	\$140,955.30
Residential Program Tuition Contracts		
45 Day Program Contracts:		
Total	1	\$140,955.30

#26-200 Recommendation: Contract Award: Cambridge Health Alliance be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cambridge Health Alliance, 1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA for the period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$64,800.00.

#26-201 Recommendation: Contract Award: Team Select Home Care be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Team Select Home Care, 140 Wood Road, Braintree, MA, for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$120,000.00.

#26-203 Recommendation: Contract Award: Minuteman Regional High School be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Minuteman Regional High School, 758 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA for the period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$163,665.00.

Attuned Education Partners, 572 Valley Road, Montclair NJ, for the period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$59,400.00.

#26-206 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Early College Support Grant (SC27831) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY27 Early College Support Grant (SC27831) - State in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

#26-207 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Title I, Part A Distribution - Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts (SC27604) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY27 Title I, Part A Distribution - Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local School Districts (SC27604) - Federal through State allocated in the amount of \$1,548,982.00 for the period of September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2028.

#26-208 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Title II, Part A Distribution - Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Leading (SC27731) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY27 Title II, Part A Distribution - Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Leading (SC27731) - Federal through State allocated in the amount of \$217,131.00 for the period of September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2028.

#26-209 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Title III Distribution - English Language Acquisition and Academic Achievement Program for English Learners and Immigrant Children and Youth (SC27737) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY27 Title III Distribution - English Language Acquisition and Academic Achievement Program for English Learners and Immigrant Children and Youth (SC27737) - Federal through State allocated in the amount of \$113,789.00 for the period of September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.

#26-210 Recommendation: Grant Award: FY27 Title IV, Part A Distribution - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SC27732) be adopted as follows: That the School Committee accept and approve the grant award below in the amount and for the period indicated:

FY27 Title IV, Part A Distribution - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SC27732) - Federal through State allocated in the amount of \$103,399.00 for the period of September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.

8. Non-Consent Agenda

#26-202 Recommendation: Contract Award: Epoch Healthcare LLC be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Epoch Healthcare LLC, 1 Central Street, Suite #113, Norwood, MA for the period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$75,240.00.

A brief discussion followed **#26-202**.

On a motion by Member de Paula Santos, seconded by Member Jaikumar, **#26-202** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-204 Recommendation: Contract Award: Edia Learning Inc. be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Edia Learning Inc., 690 Long Bridge Street, San Francisco, CA for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$29,480.00.

A discussion followed **#26-204**.

Members discussed how the tool is currently used, its role in supporting instruction, family notification and opt-out options, student data privacy, and broader concerns about the use of AI in education. The Superintendent and Dr. Francis emphasized that the platform is a supplemental rather than core instructional tool. Several members shared that they wanted to review usage data and potentially hear directly from math educators about their experience with the platform.

On a motion my Member Jaikumar, seconded by Vice Chair Dube **#26-204** was postponed to the next Regular Meeting on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, NAY

#26-205 Recommendation: Contract Award: Attuned Education Partners be adopted as follows: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Attuned Education Partners, 572 Valley Road, Montclair NJ, for the period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$59,400.00.

A discussion followed **#26-205**.

The Committee discussed the District's ongoing strategic planning process. Superintendent Murphy explained that the Committee had previously approved \$45,000 for this work in the FY27 budget, but the final scope resulted in an additional \$14,000 expense, which he recommended covering with available District funds rather than seeking additional support from the Cambridge Community Foundation. Members discussed the cost and value of outsourcing the work, as well as the strategic planning timeline. **Member Hudson** expressed concern that the Committee was not more involved in this work. The Superintendent reported that community engagement and additional vetting will continue through the fall, with the full strategic plan expected to come before the Committee in January 2027.

On a motion my Chair Weinstein, seconded by Member Jaikumar **#26-205** was approved on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

9. School Committee Agenda (Policy Matters/Notifications/Requests for Information):

Chair Weinstein noted that a motion was pulled earlier that morning from the original agenda by the motion makers as the topic of 158 Spring Street would be addressed as part of the Superintendent's Presentation.

#26-211 Correction of June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes - Vice Chair Dube and Member de Paula Santos

That the minutes of the June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting be corrected to accurately reflect the roll call votes on the adoption of the **#26-124** Communications and Community Relations Subcommittee Report – May 11, 2026, which are:

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Member Jaikumar **#26-124** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, ABSENT; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Member de Paula Santos, **#26-211** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-212 Equitable Recess Opportunities for Upper Schools - Vice Chair Dube, Member de Paula Santos, and Member Jaikumar

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools policy states that K–8 students will have daily recess periods with opportunities for active play; and

WHEREAS: Recess provides students with important opportunities for physical activity, social connection, unstructured play, and a break from the academic demands of the school day; and

WHEREAS: The quality of a student's recess experience depends not only on the amount of time provided, but also on access to appropriate spaces, equipment, activities, and opportunities for both active and less-active recreation; and

WHEREAS: Recess environments and opportunities currently vary substantially among Cambridge's upper schools, with students at some schools having access to playgrounds, fields, recreational equipment, games, and multiple activity choices, while students at other schools have significantly fewer options; and

WHEREAS: These differences can result from building and site design, shared-campus arrangements, rules governing the use of existing outdoor spaces, available equipment, staffing, or other operational considerations; and

WHEREAS: A student's access to meaningful opportunities for movement, play, social connection, and restoration during the school day should not depend on which Cambridge upper school they attend; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent conduct a review of recess opportunities at each Cambridge upper school across the fall and early winter months of December and January and report to the School Committee on the following:

- The amount of recess time provided to students at each school
- The indoor and outdoor spaces available to students during recess, including any spaces located on school campuses that students are not currently permitted to use and the reasons for those restrictions
- The equipment and structured or unstructured recreational opportunities available to students at each school
- Staffing coverage for recess periods at each school
- Any significant disparities among schools in students' access to physical activity, play, and recreational choices during recess
- Practical steps that could be taken during the 2026–2027 school year to provide a more equitable range of recess opportunities across the upper schools, including changes to space-use rules, increased access to existing facilities, the purchase of recreational equipment, programming, or other relatively low-cost improvements; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Superintendent develop recommended minimum expectations for the quality of the recess experience at Cambridge upper schools so that all students have access to meaningful choices for movement, play, social interaction, and restoration, regardless of the physical campus they attend; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the findings and recommendations be presented to the School Committee in February 2027.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-212** was adopted on the following roll call vote: YEA; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA; Non-binding votes from Student Members Goode, YEA and Shen, ABSENT.

#26-213 Superintendent Evaluation – Chair Weinstein, Vice Chair Dube and Mayor Siddiqui

WHEREAS: Massachusetts law mandates that School Committees implement a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation process for all educators, including Superintendents (603 CMR 35.00); and

WHEREAS: In Cambridge, the Superintendent's employment agreement stipulates that "the Superintendent shall be evaluated annually by the Committee" and that "The Committee and the Superintendent shall agree upon a time in each year...to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation" (Section 7(B), "Employment Agreement Between The Cambridge Public Schools And David Murphy 2025-2029"); and

WHEREAS: The Superintendent has not yet received an evaluation during the 2026-27 school year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee conduct a summative evaluation no later than June 30, 2027.

STEPS	PROCESS/COMMENTS	DATES
Self-Assessment	Superintendent presents self-assessment.	October Special Meeting TBD
Analysis, Goal Setting, and Plan Development	During a public meeting, the school committee and superintendent review the proposed goals, key strategies, and progress benchmarks, along with the proposed focus Indicators. 2. In consultation with the superintendent and with the objective of achieving mutual agreement, the committee revises as needed and approves the goals and related focus Indicators. These goals—along with key strategies and benchmarks of progress—become the Superintendent's Annual Plan. 3. The plan also outlines the evidence that will be used to assess goal progress and determine performance ratings on each Standard and overall.	October Special Meeting TBD
Plan Implementation and Collection of Evidence		Ongoing throughout the year
Formative Assessment / Evaluation	At a mid-cycle public meeting (or series of meetings), the Superintendent reports on progress made on the goals in the Superintendent's Annual Plan. The school committee reviews the report, offers feedback, and discusses progress and possible mid-cycle adjustments with the superintendent.	March 16, 2027
Summative Evaluation	The Superintendent prepares an End-of-Cycle Report on goal progress and performance against the focus Indicators for each Standard. In a public meeting, the school committee completes a performance review and End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report assessing attainment of the goals and the Superintendent's performance against the Standards. Following the exchange of information contemplated by the Superintendent's contract and DESE regulations The Committee will share its evaluation of the Superintendent.	June 15, 2027

The group discussed **#26-213**.

The Committee discussed the proposed Superintendent Evaluation Guidelines, including how educator feedback would be incorporated, the process for jointly establishing goals, and the timing of the evaluation cycle. **Vice Chair Dube** explained that the process follows the DESE framework, beginning with the Superintendent's self-assessment and goal-setting in October, followed by a formative assessment in March and a summative evaluation in June. Members raised questions about the timing of the evaluation, its alignment with the Superintendent's contract, and whether the DESE rubric was required. CPSD Legal Counsel, Attorney Weisman, clarified that the Committee may use the DESE rubric or develop its own similarly rigorous state-approved rubric.

On a motion by Vice Chair Dube, seconded by Chair Weinstein, **#26-213** failed on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, NAY; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, PRESENT; Chair Weinstein, YEA (3-3-1); Non-binding votes by Student Members Goode, PRESENT and Shen, PRESENT.

On a motion by Member Harding, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, the meeting was extended by 15 minutes on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

#26-214 RSTA Data Review – Member Harding

WHEREAS: The Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) is committed to providing students with high-quality technical education that connects classroom learning with workplace applications and prepares students for employment, further education, training, and other postsecondary pathways; and

WHEREAS: It is important to periodically assess RSTA programs to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement and ensure students have the resources and supports necessary for success; now therefore be it
RESOLVED: That the Superintendent and his team conducts a comprehensive review of RSTA and its programs, to assess how effectively programs attract, retain, and prepare students for successful postsecondary pathways; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the review examine, among other areas, staffing and instructors, curriculum and materials, equipment and facilities, funding, advising, work-based learning opportunities, industry credentials, and other supports available to students; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the review include data from the five most recent school years and recommendations to ensure students graduate with the knowledge, technical skills, credentials, and career-readiness skills needed to successfully pursue employment, further education or training, or other postsecondary pathways; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the findings, data, and recommendations be presented at a Regular Meeting of the School Committee no later than March 31, 2027.

A discussion followed **#26-214**.

The Committee discussed the review of RSTA, with a focus on strengthening support for students and families, assessing program effectiveness, and ensuring that instruction and career pathways prepare students for postsecondary opportunities and the workforce. Members emphasized that the review should build upon previous RSTA reviews and recommendations, examine progress and areas where recommendations may not have been implemented, and incorporate input from instructors, staff, students, and other stakeholders. Superintendent Murphy supported the review and indicated that the administration could report back by March 2027, while stressing that RSTA improvement should be viewed as ongoing work involving program offerings, scheduling, space utilization, and career and technical education opportunities. **Member Harding** noted that the proposed timeline was intended to identify any potential budget implications early enough to inform the budget process and expressed flexibility if additional time were needed.

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-214** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

- **Updates from subcommittee chairs on anticipated topics of subcommittee meetings for the 2026-27 school year.**

Chair Weinstein asked the subcommittee chairs to share the topics they were planning to cover in the coming months.

School Climate – Vice Chair Dube and Mayor Siddiqui (co-chairs)

- Chronic absenteeism as a lens for examining school climate
- Student mental health, particularly related to screen use
- Family engagement and its relationship to school climate

Special Education and Student Supports – Member de Paula Santos

- Academic expectations and instructional practices for students with disabilities
- Identifying successful practices and scaling them district-wide
- Professional development, including behavior supports
- Alternative and complementary approaches to applied behavioral analysis
- Timeout documentation and oversight
- Family engagement for out-of-district placements
- CPAC structure and governance
- District-family communication, including the special education website and onboarding materials

Buildings and Grounds – Member Jaikumar

- Transportation/buses
- Future of 158 Spring Street

Communications and Community Relations – Member de Paula Santos and Member Jaikumar (co-chairs)

- District communications

Curriculum and Achievement – Vice Chair Dube and Member Hudson (co-chairs)

- Academic challenge, including honors and advanced learning
- Meeting the needs of students at varying academic levels
- Possible additional discussion of KLO programming
- Follow-up on the district's screen time report
- Artificial intelligence
- Eighth-grade math and implications for elementary and middle school programs and preparation for CRLS

Governance – Mayor Siddiqui

- Completion of proposed rule changes
- Possible consideration of broader policy topics
- Additional topics based on member suggestions

Budget – Chair Weinstein and Mayor Siddiqui (co-chairs)

- Budget process beginning shortly; specific topics were not yet identified

During the reports, on a motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Member Hudson, the meeting was extended by ten minutes on the following roll call votes: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

After the reports, Member De Paula Santos moved to reconsider **#26-213** regarding the Superintendent Evaluation; Vice Chair Dube seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

Following the vote, **Member Harding** requested clarification from Legal Counsel regarding whether reconsideration could occur immediately following the original vote. **Attorney Weisman** confirmed that a motion may be reconsidered during the same session but raised a question about whether a member who had voted “present” could properly move for reconsideration, since the motion must be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side. Attorney Weisman advised that the original motion to reconsider may not have been properly before the Committee. Because the prevailing side on the original vote was the “no” side, a member who had voted “no” could properly move for reconsideration.

On my motion by Member Jaikumar, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-213** was reconsidered on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

On a motion by Chair Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Dube, **#26-213** was adopted on the following roll call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, NAY; Member Hudson, NAY; Member Jaikumar, NAY; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA

10. Resolutions: None

11. Announcements:

- **Chair Weinstein** shared that he attended the City's September 11th commemoration and appreciated the opportunity to gather with Cambridge firefighters, police officers, EMTs, first responders, and community members. He thanked those who organized the event and expressed his thoughts for all those who continue to be impacted by September 11th. He also noted the opening of Father Callanan Park, adjacent to the Darby Vassall Upper School. He was pleased to see the fields immediately being used by the community and reflected that the new park helps further integrate the school into the surrounding community.
- **Vice Chair Dube** shared that she attended the Rindge Avenue Upper Campus Back-to-School Night earlier in the evening. She praised the teachers for the care and knowledge they demonstrated toward their students and highlighted the event, including the dinner provided to families, as an example of the strong family engagement work taking place throughout the district.

12. Late Orders: None

13. Communications and Reports from City Officers: None

On a motion by Mayor Siddiqui, seconded by Member Jaikumar, the meeting was adjourned on the following call vote: Vice Chair Dube, YEA; Member Harding, YEA; Member Hudson, YEA; Member Jaikumar, YEA; Mayor Siddiqui, YEA; Member de Paula Santos, YEA; Chair Weinstein, YEA (10:20 p.m.)

Email Communications:

- ✓ Rose Freeman
- ✓ Denise Haynes

Attest:



Katherine Christo
Executive Secretary to the School Committee